

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2511
ANSWERED ON:04.12.2002
UNAPPROVED DRUGS
NARESH KUMAR PUGLIA

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned 'Drugs are crucial but illegal' appearing in Times of India dated November 11, 2002;
- (b) if so, the facts and details thereof; and
- (c) the action Government have taken thereon?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA)

a): Yes, Sir.

(b) & (c): Of the drugs appearing in news item, the drug Xeloda, Estramustin, Liposomal Amphotericin B, Alkaran, Emla and Aztreonam are approved in the country for distribution.

Some of the latest drugs which may be required in small quantities are not marketed in the country, as concerned manufacturer do not apply for their approval and marketing. For such drugs Government has made provision under Drugs & Cosmetics Rules for import through personal licenses, which are issued to individual patients.

Monitoring of Sale of drugs is done by State Drugs Control Authority. The Delhi Drug Administration carried out a survey regarding the availability of imported drugs mentioned in the News item. It has been reported that premises of 27 retail chemists dealing in imported drug were checked. Only 2 items namely Liposomal Amphotericin B and Xeloda, which are approved drugs, were found imported through regular channel.